MONTEREY NEWS

February 2002
VOLUME XXXII · Number 2

The Town

Special Town Meeting Set for March 8

A Special Town Meeting has been scheduled for Friday, March 8, at the Monterey Firehouse at 7 p.m. Currently the main warrant on the agenda is the transfer of funds from Free Cash to the Sand and Snow Removal account. A warrant will be mailed with the details closer to the date of the meeting.

Community Development Plan

A Community Development Plan for Monterey sponsored by the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission (BRPC) has been under discussion since last fall. On January 7 Melissa Jette of the BRPC came before the Select Board to review the "Scope of Services" plan for a grant application for funding Monterey's Community Development Plan. The grant will be submitted to the state on January 31, after which time the Board will schedule an All Boards meeting to review the "Scope of Services," which includes:

- creation of a natural resource map detailing protected and unprotected water and land and identifying land suitable for future development;
- a survey of existing housing in the Town in order to determine future housing needs;
- preparation of an Economic Development Report as the basis for an Economic Development section of the Master Plan identifying employment opportunities and establishing a determination of existing opportunities to attract and foster agricultural and home-based business and foster the retention of existing retail business in the Town;
- development of a Future Economic Development Map;
- development of a GIS map of subregional area identifying transportation improvements that can be implemented within five years;
- development of a network of bicycling and pedestrian trails;

Glynis Oliver

The Konkapot in winter

• finalizing the Town's Land Suitability Map which will integrate open space, housing, and economic maps and recommendations.

The Select Board will present this scope of services in greater detail for the public at the All Boards meeting.

Conservation Commission Schedules Hearing

The Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on the Scenic Mountain Act on Monday, March 11, at 7 p.m. at the Town Offices. Residents are encouraged to attend to learn more about this act.

Deadline for Town Meeting Warrant Articles

All submissions, by petition or individual for warrant articles for the annual Town Meeting on May 4 are due in the hands of the Select Board by Monday, March 4, at 9 a.m.

Surprise Party for Tim Burke

A surprise open house birthday party for Claude (Tim) Burke is set for Sunday, Feb 10, from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Firehouse. Please come and join the Town in honoring our oldest resident on his one-hundredth birthday. Coffee and cake will be served. This is a surprise so don't call Tim to ask about it. Questions and suggestions can be directed to Linda Thorpe.

Offices Closed Presidents Day

Town offices will be closed for Presidents Day, Monday, February 18. No Select Board meeting that week.

Two Town Appointments

The Select Board has appointed Mike Gilmore, Jr., of Great Barrington as Alternate Plumbing Inspector for a term ending June 30, 2002. Also, John A. Ryder was appointed Alternate Member of the Board of Appeals for a term expiring June 30, 2006.

Town Projects Grant Writer

On January 14 the Select Board met with Ed Abrahams of Great Barrington to discuss various grant applications that might benefit the Town. The Board feels that the Town has an ongoing need for someone to monitor funding availability and help explore funding opportunities for various possible future projects such as a new school building, a community center with a sports facility, or the renovation of the Wilson property. Mr. Abrahams, who has experience working with nonprofit organizations, indicated he could work for the Town on a retainer fee or a per-hour basis. The Board scheduled a meeting with Abrahams for Tuesday, February 5, at 7 p.m. at the Town Offices, where the Highway Superintendent, Police Chief, and members of the Historical Commission, Planning Board, and Council on Aging will be present to explore funding possibilities.

— Amy Goldfarb

Monterey Democratic Caucus on Feb. 2

There will be a caucus of the Monterey Democratic Party on February 2, 2002, at 3:00 p.m. in the Monterey Volunteer Firehouse on Route 23 in Monterey. The purpose of the caucus is to select two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates to the Massachusetts Democratic Convention, which is due to be held in Worcester on June 1, 2002. All registered Democrats are invited to attend and are eligible to vote.

For more information call Charles Ferris, Chairman of the Monterey Democratic Town Committee, 413-528-8900.

MONTEREY
A LOCAL HISTORY

Edited by Peter Murkett, Ian Jenkins, & Kim Hines

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The *Monterey News* is published monthly under the auspices of Monterey United Church of Christ, Monterey, MA 01245.

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This Month's Community Dinner Set for February 14

Our monthly community dinners have been wonderful opportunities to meet neighbors and eat very well! On January 9, after a sumptuous repast we went upstairs for entertainment by our talented neighbor musicians Arnie Hayes and Alice Berke. To Arnie's piano accompaniment, Alice sang great songs by Gershwin, Porter, Ellington, et al! Not only do they have great talent but they cared enough about this performance to practice and craft a polished sound for our enjoyment.

Mark your calendars for Thursday, February 14, at 6 p.m.! Yes, it is Valentine's Day and our theme is "Monterey Loves Its Fire Department." It will be a chance to acknowledge the members and their families for their invaluable service. Our entertainment following dinner will be a slide show recalling the construction of the firehouse about twenty years ago. As you know, the members built it themselves. Did you know they had to move a house that was located where the firehouse is today? It was quite a feat, as you will be able to see for yourself.

Please come! Bring your own plates, cups, and silverware, as well as a hot dish, dessert, salad, whatever excites you. Beverages will be provided. Not to worry if you forget your own plates—we also have paper plates and plastic utensils.

— Steve Pullen

MONTEREY'S OLDEST RESIDENT
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Please join us in a SURPRISE OPEN HOUSE

for
CLAUDE 'TIM' BURKE
Sunday
February 10, 2002

2:00 til 5:00 p.m.
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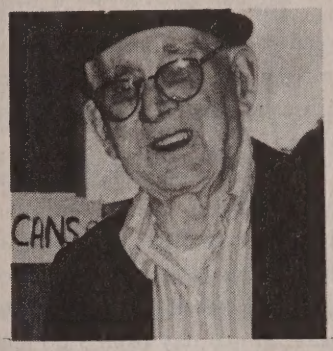

News and a Request from Gould Farm

Gould Farm Cheese Available at Roadside Store

The big news is that we will be selling our Gould Farm cheddar and curd cheese at the Roadside Store and Café beginning in February 2002. Both cheeses will be available in omelettes and for retail sale at the Store in early February. We hope you will come in and try these tasty Farmstead cheeses and enjoy the Roadside menu of hearty breakfast and lunch foods.

Bridging the General Store Gap

Gould Farm's Roadside Store and Café is looking for input from the Monterey community to bridge the gap while the General Store is in hiatus. We have begun carrying quarts of High Lawn Milk and, as of February 3, will carry the Sunday *Boston Globe* and *New York Times*.

We would like to know what other services or products we might reasonably provide that would serve the community's needs until the General Store reopens. Please direct your suggestions either to Amy Goldfarb at 528-1804, ext. 25, or to Candy at the store Tuesday through Saturday. We'd like to make the transition easier on the town so tell us how we can help and we'll do our best.

— Amy Goldfarb

A.S. Goldfarb

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Daffodil Time

New Pick Up: Monterey Meetinghouse Basement
To Order call: 1-888-837-1020

The "Daffodil for Cancer" drive this year will not be done by local volunteers and the pickup location is changed because the Monterey General Store will be closed at that time.

To order your daffodils this year, call 1-888-837-1020, extension #3. Any daffodils you order will be delivered to the Monterey Church basement on a date to be announced. Barbara Tryon will be there on that day from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon to distribute the flowers.

So! Watch for information in the various papers, Shoppers Guide, and on WSBS about date of pickup day.

Please continue to support this worthy cause. To the faithful workers: Don't go away!

Thanks for your support these seventeen years. Our town has excelled!

— Fran Amidon

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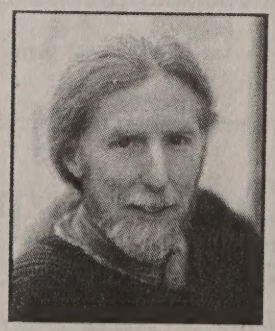

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Accolades for Firemen and EMT's

The Monterey Fire Department volunteers and EMTs who responded to a 911 emergency call when a Lake Buel family fell through the ice while skating got a nice surprise in the mail a few days later: a thank-you card expressing the gratitude of the family members for their prompt arrival at the scene.

The Hartt family of 10 Laurel Banks Road, Monterey, were skating on Lake Buel just before dusk on Saturday, January 5, when the parents Bob and Robbi with three children found themselves falling through thin ice, caused by a bubbler used to keep ice from damaging a dock. Unfortunately, with certain wind and current conditions a bubbler can render ice unsafe as far as 200 feet away. Monterey Firemen and EMTs were at the scene in minutes with an ice rescue sled and two divers in rubber suits. Luckily, with the help of onlookers extending a ladder nearby, everyone had been able to get out. After examination by EMT responders, all five potential victims were released to go home.

Police Chief Gareth Backhaus and Officer Walter Nourse found the location of the bubbler and proceeded to disengage its power supply. These bubblers are required to be licensed by the D.E.P.; over the years they have caused similar unsafe ice in the Berkshires, as at Great Pond a few years ago. The Monterey Select Board is considering possible by-laws for lakes not drawn down in winter.

Monterey continues to be at the hub of organizational and instructional activities to coordinate local training programs for a number of state-mandated regulations, encompassed by the Firefighter 1 program. On January 8, an evening meeting of Southern Berkshire Fire Chiefs at the firehouse was delayed when our firefighters responded to a house fire on Sylvan Road. Upon their return, some with faces covered with smoke, they calmly proceeded to implement the extra planning and hours required in the months ahead. Many of the volunteers are working men with their own businesses and children at home, while they are giving their time, and now additional time.

The Monterey Fire Department is pleased to announce three new volunteer members: Scott Amstead, Rick Andrus, and Buddy Rodgers (father of Ian Rodgers).

— George Emmons

ॐ

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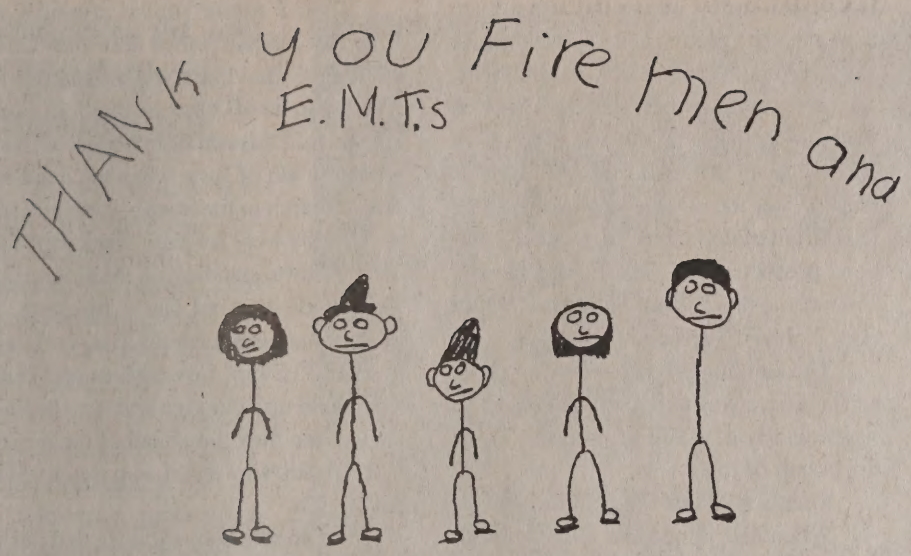

Thank You, Firemen and EMTs

Dear Firemen and EMTs,

Thank you very much for coming and helping us. It was a very scary thing. We thank you for unplugging the bubbler so that it will not happen to another family. Our family learned not to go out there again. That was one of the scariest things we have ever experienced, and we hope it won't happen again.

Sincerely,
— The Hartt family (Pieter)

Thank you very much for coming to help us!

— Sarah Kate

Thank you Del and all of the other volunteer EMT's—we will never forget this day and your presence after.

— Robbi Hartt

Thank you very much. One never fully appreciates the professional services until you need them. We appreciate your help. Thanks again.

— Bob Hartt

Free Cholesterol and Glucose Screening

A free cholesterol and glucose screening program will be held at the Monterey Town Hall on Thursday, February 14, from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. There will be another free screening on August 15. The screenings are administered by the Fairview Hospital Community Outreach Program.

Panel to Discuss Dilemmas in Healthcare Delivery

A panel discussion on "Dilemmas in Healthcare Delivery" will be presented by Fairview Hospital Medical Ethics Advisory Committee on Wednesday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m. in the First Congregational Church Parish Room, 251 Main St., Great Barrington. The facilitator is Eric Bush, M.D., and the panel members are Albert Bravo, DPM, Susan Kormanik, FNP, and Rev. Arthur Kaufman.

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From the Meetinghouse . . .

Some of you may have noticed that there was no message "From the Meetinghouse" in last month's edition of the *Monterey News*. This was because we at the church were in the midst of Advent when the deadline came around—incidentally, my first season of Advent as a pastor—and, while I knew intellectually that this would be an unusually busy time, I was no less overwhelmed by it all when it finally arrived.

And to say it was a joy and privilege to celebrate it with the people, and the churchgoers, of Monterey is to understate the case. Strangely, however, one of the greatest joys also marked a most profound loss. As the celebrant of Ian Rodgers' funeral, I received my favorite Christmas gift early this year, in coming to know Ian through the many who participated in and attended the service on December 19th at the meetinghouse, so many that we filled the house to capacity.

The Coast Guard came, many of its young members, on a charter bus up from Washington. As guards of honor, they served Ian to the last, as Ian had served for the sake of those in peril on the sea to his last. The Monterey Fire Department came in full uniform, in full array, one of their trucks serving as a hearse. State police officers came. An organist came and played our old organ. A bagpiper came, and, by his music, ushered Ian's body into and out of the sanctuary, and finally on Ian's last journey, across the cemetery to the hole in the ground at the top of the hill.

During the committal, the pallbearers held the flag that had been draped over Ian's casket taut at waist height, a canopy over the coffin. And at the end of the service, the six men folded the flag into a tight triangle. Ian's shipmate, Brandon, presented the flag to the family. Then came the 21 Gun Salute and Arnie Hayes played Taps on his coronet.

The sun hung dimly over the whole scene. There was passing cloud cover. It was a windy day, full of motion, full of the breath of life.

Then we all left the cold hilltop.

When Ian joined the Coast Guard, his first destination was Cape May, New Jersey, for boot camp. It was a happy coincidence that his sister, Rachel, was there in Cape May as well, employed as the curator of the historical society in town. Yet one of the requirements of the six-week training program is not to be in contact with family members. Given that Ian had never gone more than a day without contact with his parents, never more than a few days without contact with his sister, this requirement was going to be difficult for the whole family.

But Rachel knew the town well enough to know where the recently enlisted train, on which beach they can be found out running. So she went out one day to send him a message, written in the sand in enormous letters: "Hi Ian! Love, Rachel."

Then a rumor spread around Cape May that Ian had joined the Coast Guard Marching Band, the only way for an enlistee to be off base during boot camp. Rachel told this rumor to her parents, and so on the 4th of July, when the band was due to march in the town's parade, Cathy and Buddy went for a midweek trip to the Jersey shore, standing on the sidelines of the parade to send Ian a message, on poster board in enormous letters of magic marker: "Hi Ian! Love, Mom and Dad." They held up their sign and watched him pass. Then they ran ahead of the parade, held up their sign again, and watched him pass again.

It is no mere coincidence that during the darkest days of the year so many of the world's religions celebrate God's love for the world, God's plan for the victory and salvation of God's people, and the great lengths to which God will go to express that love, that good will, that mercy, that hope. The miracle that followed the Maccabean revolt as Jews remember in the festival of Hannukah, the miraculous gift of Christ to the world as Christians remember in the twelve days of Christmas, both celebrate those luminous moments in an eternity of time when God sends us a message: "Hi world! Love, God." And I thank Ian's family for their small gestures of great love that were a gift to Ian during his lifetime, and have become a gift to me as well.

— Elizabeth Goodman

Mad Scot

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Guidelines for Use of Meetinghouse Fellowship Hall

Glynis Oliver

It is a joy that so many people are requesting to use the meetinghouse fellowship hall for classes, concerts, and other gatherings. We on the Parish Council are pleased that this beautiful building has continued to be a resource to so many in the community.

However, given this, it has become necessary to keep an up-to-date calendar of dates and use. Therefore, if you or your organization plan to use the space, even if you believe you already have an agreement to do so with someone on the Parish Council, please be in touch with MaryKate Jordan, our keeper of the calendar, who can be reached at 528-5557.

For insurance reasons, it has also become necessary to keep track of how many keys are in use in the community. If your organization has been using the fellowship hall, please let MaryKate know how many keys you have, and who precisely has them, at present.

We also ask that you check the guidelines following each use as it is crucial that the heat be turned back down to 55 degrees, the lights all be turned off, the doors all be locked, and the hall itself be clean and fit for the next group to use it. These guidelines are posted by the door. Often in the past church members have had to clean up after different groups have used the space, scrubbing food off the tabletops, walls, and floors, and scuff marks off the walls and windowsills. It is especially important, for the well-being of the newly renovated building, as well as for those whose little feet leave such scuff marks, that those who use the building treat it as the town treasure that it is. Otherwise, the church will be forced to hire a regular cleaning service, which will raise the cost to all groups renting the space.

Thank you for your cooperation and care for the meetinghouse.

Warmly,
— The Parish Council

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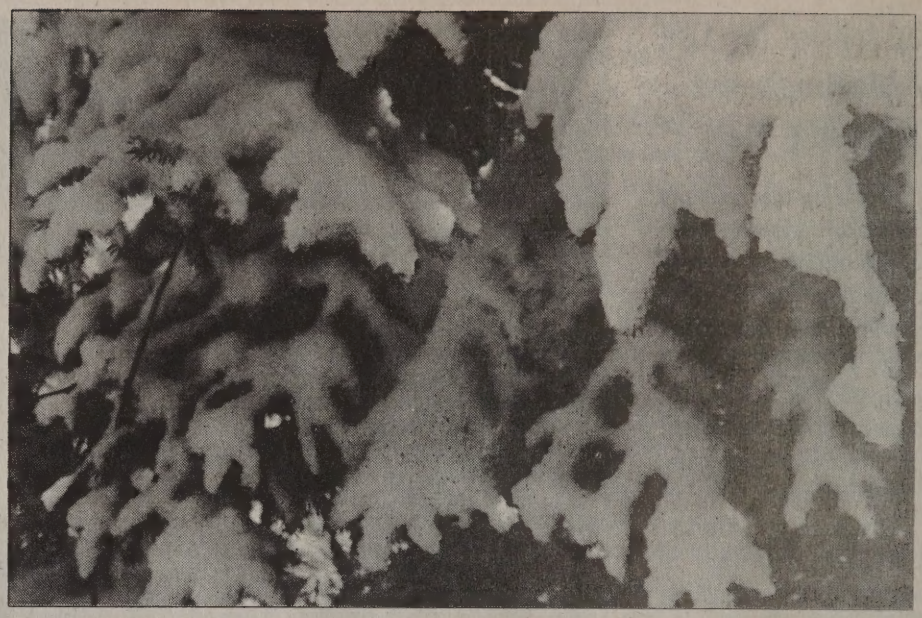
South Berkshire Family Network February News

This is a partial listing of Family Network events. Please call 413-528-0721 for more information. All events are held at the Family Center, 940 South Main Street, Great Barrington, unless otherwise stated. Families are requested to register for all events and playgroups. In case of bad weather, please call the Family Center to learn if the event has been cancelled.

February 4, 11, 25; Mondays: Parent Infant playgroup. Feb. 11, Linda Leck, Family Nurse Practitioner, Community Health Center will visit; February 25, Deborah Brantner Jones, Maternal Child Health Nurse will visit. 12:30–2 p.m.

February 5, Tuesday: Workshop for playgroup leaders, licensed home day care providers, parents, etc: "Universal Health Precautions" led by Susan Kaufman, RNCBSN, Public Health Coordinator, Berkshire Visiting Nurses, 6 p.m.

February 8, Friday: Story Time, Otis Town Hall, Lower Level. Hear a story, do an activity and share a snack. 10 a.m.



Glynis Oliver

February 18, Monday, Family Center will be closed for Presidents Holiday.

February 18, Monday: Parent Discussion Group, Bob Boylston, MSW, will speak about "Guiding Children and Discipline." Child care and light supper provided, 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Please call the Family Center to let us know if you are interested in the following workshops. Let us know what day and time is best for you. It will help us with our planning. Workshops: Parenting Journey, Siblings Without Rivalry, How to Talk So Children Will Listen and How to Listen So Children Will Talk, Raising the Spirited Child. Raising the Spirited Child will be offered at the Family Center in February. Siblings Without Rivalry will be offered at the Otis Family Center, Town Hall in February and at the Great Barrington Family Center in March.

DROP IN TIMES: Great Barrington Family Center, Monday–Friday, 2–4 p.m. Families are invited to use the playroom, clothing exchange, and lending library. Please call to make an appointment if this time is not convenient for you.

PEOPLE'S PANTRY: St. Peter's Parish Center, corner of East and Cottage Streets. Every Thursday, 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. People's Pantry serves families residing in South Berkshire County. Use the lower entrance off Russell Street.

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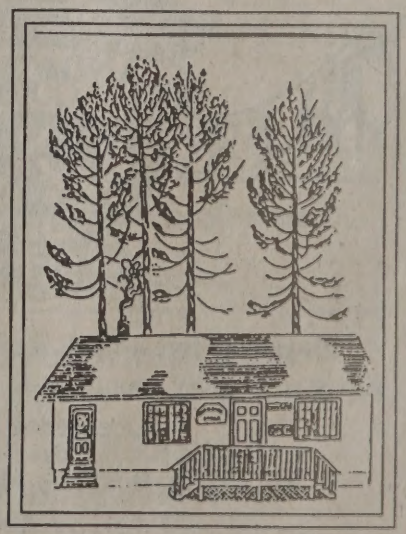

Senator Says

Circuit Breaker Tax Credit

As tax season approaches, senior citizens should remember the property tax credit called "The Circuit Breaker," so-called because it is "triggered," like an electrical circuit breaker, when property tax payments exceed 10 percent of a senior citizen's annual income. The credit cannot exceed $750, and is available to single and joint filers aged 65 and older.

Working with Senate President Tom Birmingham, I supported this tax break because there are thousands of senior citizens across the Commonwealth who currently find themselves in homes that have greatly appreciated in value since they were first purchased. At the same time, many of these seniors are now on fixed incomes as they enjoy their retirement. As a result, these senior citizens are paying property taxes that represent an unreasonably high percentage of their income.

The provisions of Proposition 2 ½ have created a difficult dynamic for many seniors. Often, these seniors find themselves pitted against proponents to fund schools, not because they are opposed to the idea of spending more money for education, but because they simply cannot afford the additional taxes. The Circuit Breaker Tax Credit is designed to provide some relief from this dynamic.

The credit is limited to taxpayers who are 65 years of age or older with incomes of $41,000 or less for single filers, $51,000 or less for head-of-household filers, and $61,000 or less for joint filers. Also, the assessed valuation of the homeowner's personal residence cannot exceed $412,000.

Those who qualify for the break will still be required to pay property taxes to their local communities. However, certain taxpayers may be eligible to claim a refundable credit on his or her state income taxes for the real estate taxes paid during the tax year on the residential property they own or rent in Massachusetts that is used as their principal residence. The maximum credit allowed is $385 for the tax year beginning January 1, 2001, and $750 for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2002. If the credit due the taxpayer exceeds the amount of the total income tax payable for the year by the taxpayer, the excess amount of the credit will be refunded to the taxpayer without interest.

Eligible taxpayers who own their property may receive a dollar credit for every dollar of their property tax that exceeds 10 percent of their income, up to the $385 maximum. Certain water and sewer bills may qualify for tax credits as well, depending on your community. Contact your local assessor's office to determine eligibility regarding water and sewer claims. Senior citizens who rent their homes can also take advantage of the same dollar for dollar credit, up to the same $385 maximum, if 25 percent of their annual rent exceeds 10 percent of their annual income.

If you qualify for the Circuit Breaker Tax Credit there is no special application required. You can receive the tax credit by filling out a 2001 Massachusetts state income tax return before the April 2002 deadline. Official information packets for 2001 state income tax returns will include Circuit Breaker schedules and are available in local libraries and post offices.

This a relatively new program, so there are bound to be questions. If you would like more information, and are interested in determining your eligibility, please don't hesitate to contact the Massachusetts Department of Revenue Customer Service Bureau at 617-887-MDOR or toll-free at 800-392-6089, or visit their website, www.mass.gov/dor. As always, please feel free to contact my office with any questions or concerns you may have regarding state-related matters.

— Senator Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.

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***

I will meet with you at your home in Monterey.

Old Table Buddha, Grinning Like the Parsley Patch, Summons the Cranes to Sing Backup on Coyote's New Love Song

cranes, arrowhead, pierce Sandia's blue sky
high over our so ripe apricot mind
oh man, must be an omen of fortune
to meet on the court of counter culture
shoot hoop with the hip and beautiful
sit cross legged, thorny wise and light
good and evil folded in my lap
rose of sunset in my blue blue glass
bean pot dances in her fire clouded dress:
"one more micaceous miracle at least!"
a simple meal becomes a simple prayer
a simple life becomes a precious gift
to soothe the insatiable hunger
of that double headed, blood thirsty beast,
its one mouth screaming "give me more, more, more!"
the other one screaming "give me vengeance!"

"hang this garlic 'round yer necks girls and boys
yer pockets pursed with herbs daddy o
play us yer latest tunes, yer recent rhymes,"
Old Table Buddha, with his garden grin
says, "take these paintings, any one ya want
just don't forget the dead, the blessing song,
that great ole sun, and the guy singin'
inside his wine glass — he's got the tall tales
of coyote trickin' us into love"

— R. Zukowski

Pearlless

Truth is a tiny grain of sand
that doesn't turn into a pearl
It just is there, irritating
the membranes.

— Peter Shepley

To a better life

I call and she does not answer
Her fragrance finds me
But I cannot see her
I breathe deeply of my life
and say I will live life with fullness

But do I?

Do I relish every drop of her tears,
her sweat?
Do I watch the snow melt for hours?
Do I follow the steam rising forever?

I will lie on the ground sideways and
watch one blade of grass grow for 30 days
I will not eat or drink
I will spend one year caring about
one person who needs me

I will play one note on a flute
and listen to it until it never ends
I will count the smiles I see in my lifetime
and call that my job

I will lift her hips up to meet me
and never say a word to her
I will end my life
and become the earth

— R. Hirsch

Love Poems

The moon is full
and I, too
am filled
with your fragrance
and loving spirit —
happily filled
with your love.

* * *

Walking on the beach on Iona
looking for stones of a rare color
watching the sun
cast sparkling diamonds
on the water
my heart widens
absorbing the whole
and I write in the sand
engraving on your soul:

I love you.

* * *

Lately,
I smell the good feeling of your hair
and taste the sound of your voice
and touch the love of you
even when you are not there.

— Walter A. Andersen

Sweet Dreams Whoever You Are

I saw you carve an awesome hole in the bold blue blanket of night
yo-yo down your frosted orb on twelve steel strings a lover's chord
serenades that silvery man and the lass who shares his dance
cupid's in the winter woods stirrin' up divine romance

well, the lunar sir he's coool tonight the jazzman owns his mood
Venus coy in pearly white and vintage red suede shoes
yonder in the wizard's glen the alchemy is swift swift
like a dervish wind lightning fingers hungry hawk
Venus insists on being courted much waxing and waning ensues
this is a slooooow romance
long-haired, high-tailed graceful dance

Orion and the other starry guys haven't seen a scene like this in sometime
periwinkle prose and letters in plaid arrive via the wire you and god
ride the cleanup set I pluck the strings of a new violin the icicle shack hums
Ellington and Stravinsky locked up in the studio smoking camels
Matisse and the princess craft life from colored tears
bittersweet orange, rose, chocolate and clove

sweet dreams whoever you are

— Claudia Weldon
January '02

Thoughts on a Winter Morning

I yearn for the dawn of springtime
When the apple buds unfold
And the first song of the blackbird
Brings a happiness untold . . .
When the robin sings at daybreak
And the sun sends its warm rays
Then my heart is filled with longing
For the joyous springtime days!

— Eleanor Kimberley

An Island in Time

Who would want to go to Nantucket, if only for a few days, in the dead of winter? We always wanted to say we had been there. I had read that the name *Nantucket* in Native American means "far off place." From Monterey to an island twenty miles off the coast at the other end of the state, it is, and more than a comfortable drive and ferry ride in one day, so we spent the night before in Hyannis on Cape Cod, a stone's throw from the port from where we would launch our quest the next morning. My wife was to search the lineage of her direct ancestors, who she knew were among the first settlers and land owners. I was attracted to the literary lighthouse of the book *In the Heart of the Sea* by Nathaniel Philbrick.

As we approached Brant Light, at the end of a long spit of land, the harbor came into view, and I also remembered that the very first settlers, before the Coffins, Starbucks, Folgers, Macys, Pinkhams, and Mayhews, were Indians, called "People of the Rising Sun," because they were among the first of coastal tribes to see the first light of day, as if rising out of the ocean. While there at the cozy and comfortably Jarred Coffin House, we were never up in time to see it, but on New Year's Eve, a full moon came up as we were going out to dinner, and at that time and place, it was the celestial event of our visit, and a shining moment just before the end of the year.

Although there are some 9,000 people living on Nantucket, as we rattled by taxi over the cobblestones of Main Street on the way to the airport to rent a car, there were no mobs of tourists on the sidewalks in front of the quaint shops, ogling celebrities, no long line of corporate jets on the runways of the airfield, and no fleet of trophy yachts in the marina. But there were good bookstores and some great places for seafood, and almost everything worth seeing was still open except the Whaling Museum, which had closed a few days before we got there. So we hurried down the street to the Atheneum. The search was on, and we soon found treasure hidden on the shelves and in the archives.

On the wall above the stairs leading to the second floor hung a historical tablet to Alexander Pinkham, Jan's great-great-great-grandfather, who served in the Revolution and who also in patriotic remembrance restored the birthplace of John Paul Jones in Arbigland, Scotland. Reading all this also brought us back to Monterey, because the tablet had long ago been erected by the Abiah Folger Franklin Chapter of the N.S.D.A.R., and we remembered that our Town Clerk Barbara Swann's mother could claim ancestry to both the Folgers and the Franklins. And as the librarians began to let us see valuable records they kept in climate and moisture controlled vaults, I thought about Barbara's quest for proper storage for town records. We made copies and transcripts of what we could, and then pushed on to the Historical Society, at the other end of town.

The Historical Research Library stands directly behind the First Quaker Meeting House, erected in 1828. But the Quaker presence was here much earlier, with those that had originally come from Devonshire, England, making a long journey in search of religious freedom. We were greeted at the library by Elizabeth Oldham, an associate of the society as well as a copy editor of *Nantucket Magazine*. She showed us a letter documenting a Quaker meeting, held in the private home of Mary Starbuck Coffin in 1701. On the wall of the library were posters of Rockwell Kent's illustrations for *Moby Dick*. Elizabeth told me that Nathaniel Philbrick, a resident of Nantucket, had in that room done most of his research for his tragic account of the ill-fated whale ship *Essex*, which had also been some of the factual basis for Melville's tale of the white whale. Then I remembered talking to Elizabeth on the phone when writing my own article "Avenging Behemoth" for the *Monterey News*, for Memorial Day last year (and 150 years after the publication of *Moby Dick*) about Melville's connection to the Berkshires, while living in Pittsfield.

Elizabeth told me that two years after *Moby Dick* was published, Melville made his one and only visit to Nantucket, for just a few days, during which he met and talked with the captain of the *Essex*. Unlike Philbrick's work, which became a best-seller, Melville's monumental book at first received poor reviews, and Melville went back to New York to make a living. Nantucket's days as the whaling capital of the world were also doomed because of shallow sandbars, just outside the harbor.

If all of this was not enough enlightenment to give to two visitors from a little town she may never have heard of, Elizabeth then found for my wife the original chart, the very first of the waters and

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channels of Nantucket, plus neighboring Martha's Vineyard and mainland navigational aids, surveyed and assembled by Jan's relative Paul Pinkham, plus the record showing that his father had been the first lighthouse keeper on the Island.

There was still one more stop to make, at a place called Smith's Cove, near a windswept point of land called Medaket. The first settlers had landed there, and nothing would do for Jan but to walk out there and see it for herself. I tried to follow her, but it was cold and miserable, and I developed feet of clay when my shoes filled with sand. So I sat in the car until she returned, all starry eyed and breathless, telling me what I had missed. Out there, where the nearest point of land is the coast of Spain, she had experienced the forces of nature; suddenly the sun had come out, the sea had turned an emerald green and the sky a brilliant blue, and she wouldn't have missed it for the world.

The next day we sat drinking hot chocolate in the observation deck on the stern of the ferry. As the lighthouse sank below the horizon until Nantucket was almost out of sight, I thought of the saying "The days of our lives slip through our fingers like grains of sand through an hourglass." Until they run out we can say we were there, and after that, we like to think that because of its history, Nantucket will always remain as an island in time.

— George Emmons

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The Four-Chambered Heart: For Love and Oxygen

We mammals are led (by whom? by us, of course) to think of ourselves as being at the top of some sort of evolutionary ladder or heap. I should say that some of the mammals give this matter more thought than others, but those of us who have considered it do the generous thing of including in our group a lot of those who haven't. Maybe it is generosity, maybe a longing for largeness of group (along with more fur, better teeth, and innocence). Even if there are quite a few attributes we of the human species do not share with members of our class, Mammalia, we do have certain physical points in common and one of these is our heart.

We mammals possess a four-chambered heart. I have always loved the word "chamber." To me it speaks of velvet wall-hangings, shelves of polished wood containing leather-bound volumes, and probably a judge or two. Maybe cigars. Chambers are also the stuff of ballads: ". . . until he came, to Lord Bateman's chamber, where he went down, on bended knee. . . ."

Not all creatures have so many chambers in their hearts. In fact, some of the ones we like to think of as being "lower" than us mammals have only three or two, or even one. Some have no hearts at all! The amphibians have a three-chambered heart, which is all they really need because they have gills some of the time and even when they don't they have damp outer surfaces on their bodies, a sneaky way of getting oxygen into some of your blood without pumping it through the lungs.

The chambers of our heart have names. Probably you remember them from those biology quizzes. I can remember chewing my pencil and looking at what I had just written on my quiz: "left auricle, right auricle, left ventricle, right ventricle." There is something so awesome about the heart that "auricle" rings true, but then you think maybe that other one is the "ventrium?" Oh, well. I loved biology, and what's in a name, after all.

In fact those upper chambers, where the judges have a light snack before getting down to their real work, are called the right atrium and left atrium. On the right side of the heart, the blood is collected by veins into the upper chamber, the atrium, and from there it drops down into the powerhouse: the right ventricle. This is a mighty piece of muscle which shoots the blood out to the lungs through the pulmonary arteries, one for each side. At this point, we are told, our blood is purple. It gets to the lungs and loads up on oxygen, the stuff we need to do our work, have our fun, read our lawbooks, and smoke cigars.

Back to the heart comes the blood, no longer purple now but scarlet. Each perfect red blood cell is loaded with the pigment hemoglobin, and when this is carrying oxygen it goes from purple to scarlet. It drops into the top chamber on the left side of the heart, the left atrium, and then passes through a one-way valve into the left powerhouse, the left ventricle. Now you know where it goes: with a mighty audible, palpable whoosh it shoots up into the aorta. Some goes up, some takes the fork and goes down. We get oxygen carried all over in no time at all. The full circuit takes only one minute!

Can we be so splendid as to contain a double pump like this? And wait until I

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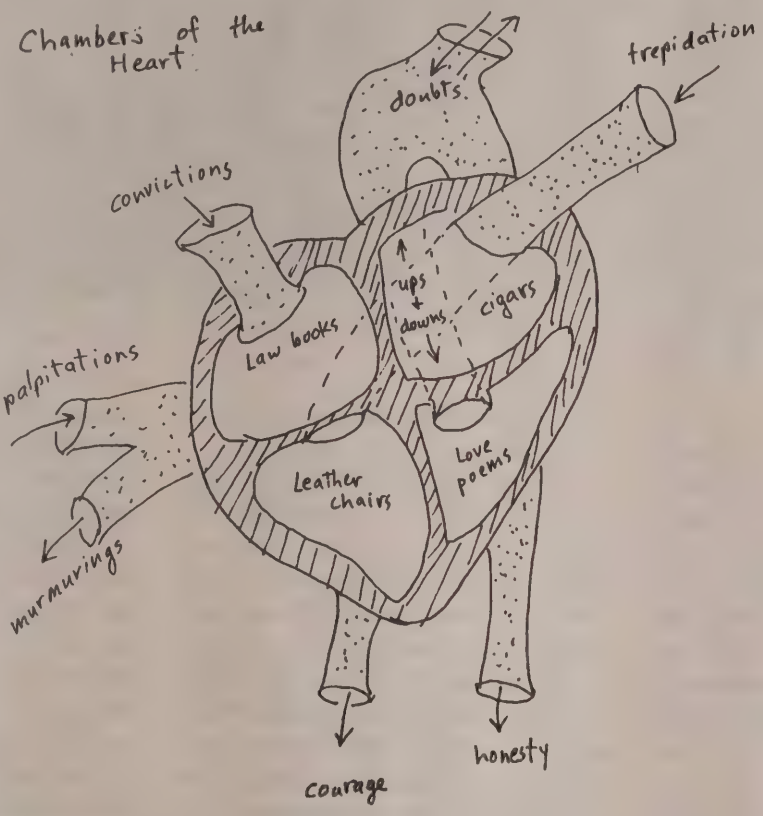
tell you what other profound fact I dug up. (Who knows if this is true, right? But let's go with it for now). In the human body there is this network of tubes, large, small, and incredibly small. Blood cells travel all over in these tubes, coming from and going back to the heart. If you gathered them all up and strung them together in one long tube, it would be so long it could circle the Earth two and a half times!!

I hope you were sitting down for that one. I am writing about the heart because this is February and we'll be seeing hearts all over in honor of St. Valentine's Day, the festival of love. The heart is the symbol for love, not to mention courage, honesty, and strength. We need all those things to face the notion that our blood vessels could circle the Earth two and a half times. It's no wonder our species has had such a profound effect on the planet.



Long before anyone got out the tape measure and started lining up capillaries end to end, people were celebrating Valentine's Day. Although it is named for St. Valentine (and there were actually two St. Valentines, both legendary martyrs, and possibly both the same person), our Valentine's Day hasn't anything to do with them (or him) except that it is celebrated on February 14, which is St. Valentine's day, or the Saints Valentines' Day. Historians say this date has been celebrated as a lovers' festival since the fourteenth century and that much earlier (third century) it was a Roman feast day.

At some point in those early times Cupid joined the party. He is described in my encyclopedia as being the ancient Roman god of love "in all its varieties." His parents were Mercury and Venus, and he is sometimes portrayed as a handsome young man in marble, sometimes as a chubby infant with wings. Sometimes he has armor and often he is armed with that bow and arrow which bring us the kind of pain we supposedly want. He is said to have been somewhat manipulated by his mother, who sent him on mischievous errands including an assignment to take revenge on the mortal Psyche. But according to this story, Cupid himself wound up falling in love with Psyche and marrying her, which had not been part of Venus's original plan.

One thing we customarily do on Valentine's Day around here is eat a fair number of hearts. Some are chocolate, some are little and made of sugar and say "Oh My" or "Cute Kid" on them. What does this symbolize, this eating of hearts? I looked in my *Bartlett's Familiar Quotations* and found an admonition from the distant past: Pythagoras, in the fifth century B.C., said, "Don't eat your heart." You don't see that on very many greeting cards, but he also said another thing: "Friends share all things."

As a mammal and a human, I send you my heartfelt greetings and send you all these bio-snippets. We share the mighty four-chambered heart and all its many miles of tubes. We also share the big brain, the big questions. We might not always agree on the questions, but at this time of year we look in our hearts and remember the answer: love.

— Bonner J. McAllester

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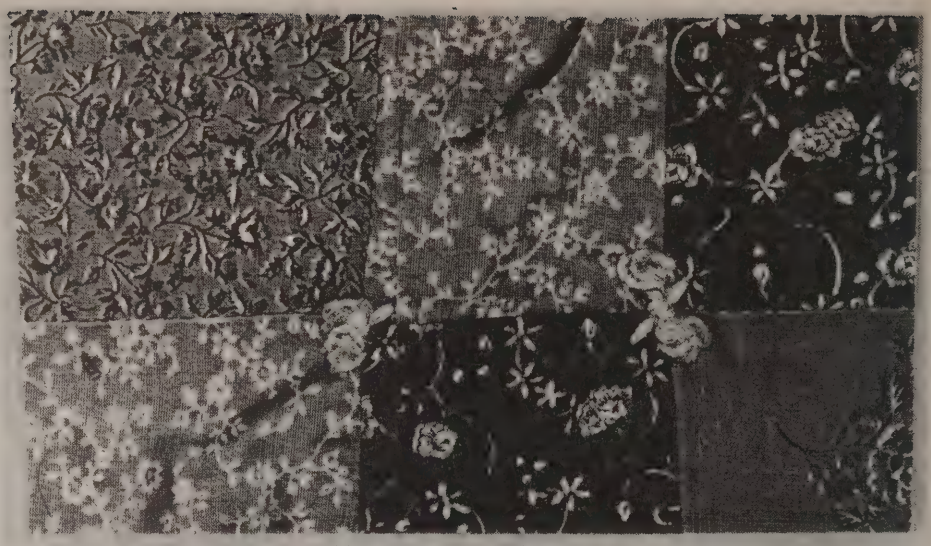
The Thread of the Story

Retiring Annie's Quilt



A fragment of Annie's quilt

It's time to retire Annie Eggers' quilt. I know it's the right thing to do. Too many seams need too much repair, and a recent stain underlines the decision I knew was coming. I'm just not sure how I'm going to do it.

Long ago, in another lifetime, in another galaxy—about twenty-five years ago, in Manhattan—I met Annie, who became my most trustworthy mentor. She was a massage therapist by training, and sweet by heart.

But, as any of you who knew her will agree, Annie was no sweet-mouthed simperer. I always knew when she was angry with me; she'd tell me. Clearly, directly, in English. This simple technique avoided any necessity for, or temptation to, up the ante with melodrama.

Annie wasn't a mentor for my professional life, but for the life of my soul. As with most mentor-apprentice pairs, we were born in different generations. While I'd often share an idea with some of my age-peers and get support, if I tried the same idea out on Annie, she was as likely to say, "That's crazy," as, "That's great." So when she complimented one of my plans, hopes, or dreams, I knew it was solid. I could jump up and down, maybe even clog dance, on it without fear of it caving in from sheer idiocy.

I hope I told her, in English, how much she meant to me. I know she knew, though, because she offered me the privilege of spending time with her in the months after the cancer had returned and she had become bedridden.

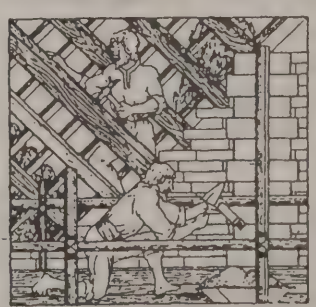
Sometimes that meant soft-boiling an egg and bringing it to her for lunch. On a specific blue plate, with a specific silver teaspoon. One of the things she taught me is that we humans often manage life's larger lettings-go by holding onto control of the little details we can still both imagine and manage. And by, later, letting those go, too. I was in the house the day her brother came to visit for the last time. The day she gave him their mother's sterling. Including that teaspoon.

Another friend, Paula, made her first quilt as a housewarming gift for Annie's then-new home on Hupi Road. She made it in "Annie's colors," pale teal, lavender, deep purple, a quiet mid-grey-blue, with tiny rosy-raspberry flower accents scattered through it all.

Technically, it's not a quilt, but a comforter. Technically, it is tied, rather than quilted, to keep the front, back, and batting together. I can imagine Annie rolling her eyes at that hairsplitting. I grin, almost hear her saying something pointed and amusing in response. That comforting quilt was the physical legacy I inherited after Annie's death.

Annie loved the great outdoors, and took special delight in feeding the birds. When I'd drive over from New Marlborough to visit, years ago, her yard seemed always close to carpeted with chickadees. Come to think of it, her love of the world itself gives me the kind of firm, gentle direction she used to offer in the flesh. Now I know how I'll retire Annie's comforter. I'll turn it into the cozy cloth I'll use, next summer and beyond, when I spread a picnic under the trees. And I'll try to remember to bring along a little birdseed to leave behind when the meal is done. A kind of thank-you to Annie, through the chickadees.

— MaryKate Jordan



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Remembering James McMahon

James F. McMahon, 84, of Westfield died December 18, 2001, at Laurel Lake Center, where he had resided since last August.

Born in Westfield on June 13, 1917, the son of Thomas and Mary Ellen Donovan McMahon, he attended Westfield High School. After retiring, Mr. McMahon resided in Venice, Florida, and Monterey.

Mr. McMahon was employed with American Airlines as a flight radio operator. During World War II, he served in the Air Transport Command.

After the war, Mr. McMahon was employed with the radio station WSPR in Springfield, and in 1952 joined the newly formed WWLP Channel 22 television station, where he became assistant chief engineer. He was most recently employed with Townsend Broadcast Systems of Westfield, retiring in 1982.

He enjoyed sailing and constructed a sailboat of his own design.

His wife of 61 years, the former Rita Marcoulier, died in July.

He leaves four sons, Robert McMahon of Otis, Wayne McMahon of Erlanger, Kentucky, Ronald McMahon of Monterey, and Jeffrey McMahon of Great Barrington; a daughter, Nancy McMahon of Middleboro; a sister, Dorothy Nardacci of Westfield; and five great-grandchildren.

ॐ

Glynis Oliver

Regional Hazardous Products Collection Effort Recognized

The Southern Berkshire Household Hazardous Products (HHP) regional collection program received an award from the Department of Environmental protection on January 24th as the "Best New Household Hazardous Products Collection Program in the State."

The award was announced at the ninth Annual Forum on Hazardous Products and Difficult to Manage Wastes, held recently in Marlborough. Greg Cooper, Deputy Division Director of Consumer Programs for the Bureau of Waste Prevention, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) presented the award to Bruce Collingwood, Director of the Great Barrington Department of Public Works. Mr. Collingwood represented the five-member steering committee that oversees the collection program. Mr. Cooper praised the steering committee for developing this collaborative regional program and commended the program for modeling the cost effectiveness of regional HHP collection efforts.

Launched in 2001, the collection program, coordinated by CET, involves seventeen towns in South Berkshire County: Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham, Washington and West Stockbridge. Residents of any of these towns are able to bring unwanted oil-based paint and used motor oil to scheduled collections in Lenox, Otis; and Great Barrington. Residents can bring other toxic products, such as pesticides, gasoline, bleach and mercury-bearing thermometers and button batteries to regional Household Hazardous Wastes collections. Last July and October these comprehensive collections were held in Stockbridge and Great Barrington. Another collection is scheduled in Lee on June 8, 2002.

By joining forces and coordinating services, the towns were able to cut the costs to municipalities and provide more options for residents to dispose of their household hazardous products.

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Personal Notes

Birthday greetings go out to **Gige O'Connell** on the 1st, **Mark Makuc** on the 2nd, and **Mike Mielke** on the 7th. **Claude "Tim" Burke** celebrates his 100th (no, it's not a typo!) on February 9th. As Monterey's oldest citizen and in honor of his 100th birthday, there will be an Open House for Tim at the Firehouse on February 10th from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Please stop in and give him your regards. **Bob Rausch** also celebrates on the 9th, **Cristina Temenos** and **Barbara Bonner** celebrate their birthdays on the 10th, **Jack Jefferson** and **Lanny Lanoue** on the 14th, **Dave Gauthier** on the 15th, **Maryellen Brown** and **Arnold Pratt** on the16th, **Kim Gero** on the 18th, **Rachel Rodgers** on the 20th, **Georgianna Eschen** on the 21st, **Maggie Clawson** and **Dick Tryon** on the 22nd, **Jim Edelman** on the 23rd, **Mark Amstead** on the 26th, **Paul Makuc, Morgan Schick,** and **Kayla Snyder** on the 27th, and, even though it's not leap year, **Shaen O'Connor** on the 29th (or March 1st?).

Anniversaries celebrated this month belong to **Arnold and Judy Hayes** on February 13th and **Don and Pat Amstead** on the 27th.

As always if you have something to share, please call or drop a note. I'd like to update the birthdays and anniversaries. If you haven't seen your name for either day and would like to, please let me know.

— Deborah Mielke

Contributors

We thank the following people for their recent contributions.

Jane and Richard Perin
Daniel Zweig and Sally Petrick
Ken and Laurel Kahn
Elizabeth Steen
Tim Walter
Eleanor Kimberley

Used Clothing Container at Transfer Station

The Transfer Station now has a container for the collection of good useable clothing, shoes, blankets, curtains, and the like. These items will be shipped to needy people all over the world.

ॐ

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Calendar

Saturday, February 2: Monterey Democratic Party caucus, 3 p.m., Monterey Firehouse.

Sunday, February 10: Surprise Open House 100th Birthday celebration for Tim Burke, Monterey's oldest resident, at the Monterey Firehouse from 2 to 5 p.m. See p. 3.

Thursday, February 14:

Community potluck dinner, 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement. Everyone invited, please come. After dinner there will be a slide presentation recalling the construction of the Monterey Firehouse. See p. 3.

Free cholesterol and glucose screening, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Fairview Hospital Community Outreach.

Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Hall, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc. **(Please note change in day and time.)**

Friday, February 15:

Monterey Food Co-op order distribution and pickup, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Meetinghouse basement.

Monday, February 18: Town Offices closed in observance of Presidents Day.

Saturday, February 23: Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield, Mass. Music by Mountain Laurel, calling by Peter Stix. All dances are taught, beginners and children are welcome. Refreshments at intermission. Adults $6, children $3. Information (413) 528-9385.

Wednesday, February 27:

Full Moon.

Panel Discussion on "Dilemmas in Healthcare Delivery," presented by Fairview Hospital Medical Ethics Committee, 7 p.m., Parish Room, First Congregational Church, Great Barrington. See p. 5.

Monday, March 4: All submissions for warrant articles for May annual Town Meeting due to Select Board at Town Offices by 9 a.m.

Friday, March 8: Special Town Meeting, 7 p.m., Monterey Firehouse. See p. 1.

Monday, March 11: Conservation Commission public hearing on Scenic Mountain Act, 7 p.m., Town Offices.

ॐ

The Observer

December 26–January 25

High temp. (1/25)	49°
Low temp. (1/1, 2)	8°
Avg. high temp.	33.9°
Avg. low temp.	26.2°
Avg. temp.	30.0°
Total precipitation (rain and melted snow)	1.65"
Snowfall	23.5"

Precipitation occurred on 13 days.

It won't be news to anyone to say that we're having a warm winter. The average temperature for the same period last year was 21.1°.

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Burn permits are available during burn season by calling Maynard Forbes at the town garage, 528-1734.

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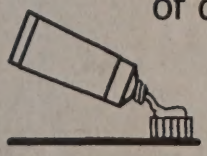

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Contributions from local artists this month: Maureen Banner, pp. 9, 18; George Emmons, p. 13; Bonner McAllester, p. 15; Glynis Oliver, p. 10.

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MONTEREY NEWS
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